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SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [SMIG](#) [SCUL](#) [EAID](#) [TSPL](#) [BTIO](#) [BEXP](#)

EINV, OEXC, OIIP, CA

SUBJECT: CANADA: EXPERIENCE ENGAGING DIASPORA COMMUNITIES

REF: A. STATE 86401

[1](#)B. OTTAWA 639

[1](#)C. OTTAWA 596

[1](#)D. OTTAWA 501

[1](#)E. OTTAWA 260

[1](#)F. TORONTO 200

[1](#)G. TORONTO 149

[1](#)H. TORONTO 93

[1](#)I. TORONTO 86

[1](#)J. TORONTO 84

[1](#)K. TORONTO 52

[1](#)L. TORONTO 40

[1](#)M. TORONTO 6

[1](#)N. VANCOUVER 196

[1](#)1. (U) Like the United States, Canada is a nation of immigrants. Immigrants make up twenty percent of the overall population in Canada, according to the most recent census data (2006). The largest Diaspora in Canada is from the United Kingdom (579,620) followed by China (466,940), India (443,690), the Philippines (303,195), Italy (296,850), U.S. (250,535), and Hong Kong SAR (215,430). Sri Lankans, Jamaicans, Pakistanis, Iranians, and Vietnamese also make up large immigrant populations of around 100,000 people each. Since 2001, the largest amount of immigrants have come from China (155,105), India (129,140), the Philippines (77,880), Pakistan (57,630), and the U.S. (38,770), with other large communities from Iran (27,600), Colombia (25,305), Sri Lanka (22,305), Mexico (16,520), Afghanistan (16,240), Algeria (16,235), and Lebanon (11,355). Canada accepts about 250,000 immigrants each year, and the "wooing of new Canadians" is now an important part of Canadian politics (ref e). Toronto is the most diverse city in Canada, with 47% of residents foreign-born (ref l).

[1](#)2. (U) The most publicly active Diaspora communities in Canada during 2008 and 2009 have been Iranians and Sri Lankans. Supporters of the Tamil Tigers have engaged in public protests throughout Canada to generate public awareness for their cause (refs i, j, and k). Iranians came out in force during the disputed elections in their homeland (ref d).

[1](#)3. (U) Embassy Ottawa has compiled an extensive list of Diaspora organizations in Ontario, including the following:

Canadian Friends of Burma  
Afghan Women's Organization  
Afghan Association of Ontario  
Armenian National Committee of Canada  
Belarusian Canadian Coordination Committee  
Canadian Jewish Congress  
B'Nai Brith Canada  
Ottawa Kurdish Community Association  
Canadian Arab Federation  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (Canada)  
Canadian Islamic Congress  
Canadian Tibetan Association

Algerian Cultural Centre  
Committee for Democracy and Justice in Cambodia  
Chinese Canadian National Council  
Tamil Canadian Congress  
Cypriot Federation of Canada  
Federation of Canadian Turkish Associations  
Latvian National Federation of Canada  
Lebanese and Arab Social Services Agency of Ottawa--Carleton  
National Council of Barbaidan Associations in Canada  
National Council of Jamaicans in Canada  
Portuguese Canadian National Congress  
General Group of Canadian Senegalese  
Serbian National Shield Society of Canada  
Slovak Canadian National Council  
Vietnamese Canadian Federation  
World Sikh Organization  
Canadian Palestinian Foundation  
Canadian Friends of Somalia  
Canadian Friends of Sudan

14. (U) Following responses are keyed to ref a questions:

A) Diasporans listed above form identifiable communities and networks, including on-line;

B) Diasporan communities in Canada focus mainly on kinship but also serve as important sources for community, social services, educational, and remittances assistance;

C) The Canadian government has engaged in extensive Diaspora outreach, in particular to support its involvement in both Haiti and Afghanistan;

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D) N/A

E). N/A

F). N/A

G). N/A

H) The Canadian Friends of Somalia, Sudan, and Burma are leading Diaspora organizations geared toward democracy-promotion in their homelands;

I) The Canadian government provides extensive funding to Diaspora groups, including budgetary support and grants for conferences and seminars;

J). The Embassy has extensive, on-going contact with all three organizations in response H and their executive directors.

15. (U) Embassy points of contact for Diaspora issues are:

Kurt van der Walde, Deputy Political Counselor  
Emily Fertik, Human Rights Officer

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